WALK No.11- Offwell Bluebells

Although chosen primarily for the bluebells, this is a delightful and varied walk at any time of year with views, woodland, countryside and a village with some interesting houses.

LENGTH OF WALK - 4.3 miles (allow 2 to 2 ½ hours.) DIFFICULTY RATING - ☃️

DIRECTIONS FROM LYME REGIS - From Lyme Regis go to A35 at Hunters Lodge and turn left towards Honiton for 8.2 miles through Wilmington. Turn left for Offwell (sign for re-cycling centre). Follow this road for 0.6 miles into the village and just before the school sign turn right into the Village Hall car park.

OS maps | Explorer 115, Landranger 192,193
OS Grid reference | OS Grid Reference SY 194 996
Post Code | EX14 9SA
GPS Point | GPS 50.7907 - 3.1448

LOCAL AMENITIES - Village stores and Post Office in car park. Honiton Garden Centre & Sundial Garden Nursery both have cafes. Signposted from A35.

For details of all the walks go to http://www.lymeregis.org/explore/walks/ and www.lymeregisu3a.org

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Turn right out of car park and follow the road between the school and the church and past Offwell House on left, continuing on Ramsden Lane slightly uphill and out of village.

When close to A35, turn left at The Lynch (sign for Bluebell Farm) and as you follow this road you will get glimpses to the right of the Bishop’s Tower (behind conifer). Follow the road past Bluebell Farm on left and large barn on right and take track to the left (bridleway sign) and go through gate at end into Colwell Wood continuing along track. Take left-hand fork (bridleway sign), through rhododendrons. Continue through gate and straight on along bridleway (marked). When bridleway turns sharp left, turn right onto footpath (marked) and over stone and wooden bridges and uphill (duck boards), turning left at top and following marker post straight on through gate, and down to stony area. Turn right to join part concreted drive to left. Pass house on left and continue on to road.

Turn right here and immediately left into footpath (marked) at Bagwells Cottage. Take left-hand fork towards pond and follow large stones and bricks down to footpath marker. Follow path through pedestrian gate, follow footpath marker to right through gate and between house and outbuildings to track to left beyond.

When you come to “No Public Access” sign turn left and over stile (footpath marker) across field to opening ahead (footpath marker). Through this go past “Private” gate to left and on to stile in corner. Go over this and follow footpath marker posts diagonally right down indistinct narrow path past willows on left and to a stile at bottom (footpath marker). Go over footbridge ahead and turn left to stile ahead (footpath marker), cross then bear right through gate ahead.

Turn right and go uphill on road and just past Colwell Barton stone development turn left into road. Soon take footpath on right (signed) into woods and follow footpath through kissing gate, turn right up steps and over stile into field. Turn left and follow edge of woods and at gates ahead go over stile and follow right-hand boundary ahead to gate in corner and turn left through gate (footpath marker) into woods over a high stile.

Bearing slightly left cross field to marker post to left of old tree and round the corner to stile and gate onto road (footpath sign). Turn right on road and uphill to church and school. Turn right at junction and along to Village Hall car park on left.